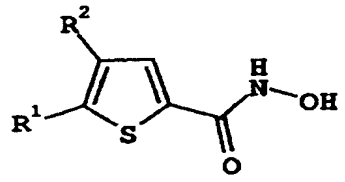
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

CLAIMS

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

in which

R^1 represents aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from R^3, alkylenedioxy, carboxy, cyano, halo, hydroxy, nitro, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, $-C(=O)-R^3$, $-C(O)OR^3$, $-C(=Z)-NR^4R^5$, $-NR^4R^5$, $-NR^6-C(=O)-OR^3$, $-NR^6-C(=O)-NR^4R^5$, $-NR^6-C(=Z)-R^3$, $-O-C(=O)-NR^4R^5$, $-NR^6-SO_2-R^3$, $-OR^3$, $-O-C(=O)R^3$, $-SH$, $-SR^3$, $-SOR^3$, $-SO_2R^3$ and $-SO_2-NR^4R^5$;

R^2 represents hydrogen, chloro, cyano, fluoro, alkoxy, alkyl, or haloalkyl;

R^3 represents aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl or R^7;

R^4 and R^5 independently represent a group selected from hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloallcyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocycloalkyl, wherein said alkyl or

alkenyl are optionally substituted by aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocycloalkyl; or the group $-NR^4R^5$ may form a cyclic amine;

R^6 represents hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R^7 represents alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl, wherein said alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl are optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxy, $-C(=Z)-NR^4R^5$, $-NR^4R^5$, $-NR^6-C(=Z)-R^8$, $-O-C(=O)-NR^4R^5$, $-NR^6-C(=O)-OR^8$, $-NR^6-C(=O)-NR^4R^5$, $-NR^6-SO_2-R^8$, $-OR^8$, $-SOR^8$, SO_2R^8 and $-SO_2-NR^4R^5$; R^8 represents alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl, optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxy and halogen; or R^8 represents aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocycloalkyl; and

Z is O or S,

and corresponding *N*-oxides, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates and prodrugs of such compounds.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is optionally substituted phenyl.

3. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is 4-methoxyphenyl.

4. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is selected from optionally substituted monocyclic heteroaryl.

5. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is selected from optionally substituted imidazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyridinyl, thienyl and pyrimidinyl.

6. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is selected from optionally substituted imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyridinyl and pyrimidinyl.

7. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is substituted by a haloalkyl group.

8. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is substituted by an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group.

9. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is substituted by an optionally substituted alkyl group.

10. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 8 wherein said alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group is substituted by one or more groups selected from optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl and heterocycloalkyl, and from hydroxy, -C(=Z)-NR^4R^5, -NR^4R^5, -NR^6-C(=Z)-R^8, -O-C(=O)-NR^4R^5, -NR^6-C(=O)-OR^8, -NR^6-C(=O)-NR^4R^5, -NR^6-SO_2-R^8, -OR^8, -SOR^8, SO_2R^8 and -SO_2-NR^4R^5.

11. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 8 wherein said alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group is substituted by a group selected from optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl and heterocycloalkyl, and from -C(O)-NR^4R^5, -NR^4R^5, -NR^6-C(O)-R^8, -NR^6-SO_2-R^8, -OR^8 and -SO_2-NR^4R^5.

12. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 8 wherein said alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group is substituted by optionally substituted aryl and heteroaryl.

13. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Z is O.

14. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 5 wherein R^1 is substituted by a group X wherein X is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heterocycloalkyl, -C(O)-NR^4R^5, -NR^4R^5, -NR^6-C(O)-R^8, -NR^6-SO_2-R^8, -OR^8, -SO_2-NR^4R^5 and alkyl substituted by a group selected from optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heterocycloalkyl, -C(O)-NR^4R^5, -NR^4R^5, -NR^6-C(O)-R^8, -NR^6-SO_2-R^8, -OR^8 and -SO_2-NR^4R^5.

15. (Original) A compound according to claim 14 wherein X is selected from:

$-(CH_2)_nCONR^4(CH_2)_mAr$,

$-(CH_2)_nSO_2NR^4(CH_2)_mAr$

$-(CH_2)_nNR^6CO(CH_2)_mAr$,

$-(CH_2)_nNR^6SO_2(CH_2)_mAr$,

$-(CH_2)_nNR^4(CH_2)_mAr$,

$-(CH_2)_nO(CH_2)_mAr$, and

$-(CH_2)_nAr$;

wherein Ar is optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl;

n is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4.

16. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein said R^4 and R^6 groups are independently selected from hydrogen; and/or wherein said R^5 and R^8 groups are independently selected from optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl and heterocycloalkyl, and from alkyl substituted by optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl.

17. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 10 wherein the substituent(s) on said optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl and heterocycloalkyl groups are selected from halogen, CF_3, OCF_3, alkyl, acylamino, arylalkyl, aryloxy, aryl, cyclic amino, heteroaryl, alkylenedioxy and aminosulphonyl.

18. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 10 wherein said optionally substituted aryl is selected from phenyl; said optionally substituted heteroaryl is selected from quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, pyridyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, imidazolyl, indolyl, indazolyl,

pyrolyl and benzofuranyl; and said optionally substituted heterocycloalkyl is selected from either (i) an optionally substituted saturated multicyclic heterocarbocyclic moiety in which an aryl or heteroaryl ring and a heterocycloalkyl group are fused together to form a cyclic structure, or (ii) piperazinyl substituted on nitrogen by aryl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl or heteroaryl.

19. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 5 wherein R^1 is selected from 1-(2-phenylethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl, 1-benzyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl, 4-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl, pyridin-2-yl, 5-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl, 1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl, 2-methyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-yl, 1-methyl-5-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl, 2-methyl-5-trifluoromethyl-2*H*-pyrazol-3-yl, 1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl, pyridin-4-yl, 5-trifluoromethylisoxazol-3-yl, 3-methyl[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl, or thiophene-2-yl.

20. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^2 is hydrogen.

21. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^3 and R^8 are independently selected from alkyl.

22. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^3 and R^8 are independently selected from methyl and ethyl.

23. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, arylalkyl and heteroarylalkyl.

24. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 selected from:

5-(4-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-(1-benzyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-(1-phenethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-pyridin-2-yl-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

and corresponding *N*-oxides, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates and prodrugs of such compounds.

25. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 selected from:

5-[1-(2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]dioxin-2-ylmethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl]-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-(5-phenethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-pyrimidin-2-yl-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-(1-benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-ylmethyl-l*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-(1-phenethyl-5-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-(4-benzyloxy-pyrimidin-2-yl)-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-(2-phenethyl-3*H*-imidazol-4-yl)-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-[l-(5-*tert*-butyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-ylmethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl]-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-{1-[6-(2,2-dimethyl-propionylamino)-pyridin-2-ylmethyl]-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl}-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-(5-phenylacetylamino-pyridin-2-yl)-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-(1-quinolin-2-ylmethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-[5-(*2*-benzyloxy-ethylamino)-pyridin-2-yl]-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-{5-[(2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]dioxin-6-ylmethyl)-amino]-pyridin-2-yl}–thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-{5-[(benzofuran-2-ylmethyl)-amino]-pyridin-2-yl}-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-{1-[2-(4-fluoro-benzyloxy)-ethyl]-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl}-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-(1-phenylcarbamoylmethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-[1-(quinolin-8-ylcarbamoylmethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl]-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-{1-[(4-fluoro-phenylcarbamoyl)-methyl]-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl}-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-{1-[(4-oxazol-5-yl-phenylcarbamoyl)-methyl]-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl}-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

quinoline-2-carboxylic acid {2-[3-(5-hydroxycarbamoyl-thiophen-2-yl)-pyrazol-1yl]-ethyl}-amide;

5-{1-[(2-morpholin-4-yl-phenylcarbamoyl)-methyl]-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl}-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-(1-{[2-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-methyl}-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-{1-[(2-fluoro-phenylcarbamoyl)-methyl]-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl}-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-[1-quinolin-3-ylcarbamoylmethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl]-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

2-(5-hydroxycarbamoyl-thiophen-2-yl)-5-methyl-1*H*-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid phenethyl-amide;

2-(5-hydroxycarbamoyl-thiophen-2-yl)-5-methyl-1*H*-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid benzylamide;

5-(6-benzyloxymethyl-pyridin-2-yl)-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-{1-[1*H*-indol-7-ylcarbamoyl)-methyl]-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl}-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-{1-[(3-chloro-phenylcarbamoyl)-methyl]-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl}-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-{1-[(3-methoxy-phenylcarbamoyl)-methyl]-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl}-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-[1-(1-oxy-quinolin-2-ylmethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl]-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-(l-{2-[(benzo[l,3]dioxol-5-ylmethyl)-amino]-ethyl}-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

5-[1-(2-benzylamino-ethyl)-1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl]-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide; and corresponding *N*-oxides, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates and prodrugs of such compounds.

26. (Previously presented)A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) A method for treating a disease in a patient in which inhibition of histone deacetylase can prevent, inhibit or ameliorate the pathology and/or symptomatology of the disease, which method comprises administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

29. (Currently amended) A method ~~or use~~ according to claim ~~27~~ 28 wherein said disease is a disease caused by increased cell proliferation.

30. (Currently amended) A method ~~or use~~ according to claim ~~27~~ 28 wherein said disease is cancer, psoriasis, fibroproliferative disorders, smooth muscle cell proliferation disorders, inflammatory diseases and conditions treatable by immune modulation, neurodegenerative disorders, diseases involving angiogenesis, fungal and parasitic infections and haematopoietic disorders.

31. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~27~~ 28 wherein said disease is liver fibrosis, arteriosclerosis, restenosis, rheumatoid arthritis, autoimmune diabetes, lupus, allergies, Huntington's disease, retinal diseases, protozoal infections, anaemia, sickle cell anaemia and thalassemia.

32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31 wherein said protozoal infection is malaria, toxoplasmosis or coccidiosis.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31 wherein said retinal disease is diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, interstitial keratitis or rubeotic glaucoma.

34. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~27~~ 28 wherein said disease is congestive heart failure due to cardiomyocyte hypertrophy.